

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for providing a directory listing, comprising steps of:
2 receiving query information from a user, wherein said query information
3 includes at least genealogical information corresponding to a user-sought entity.
4 searching a database for the query information, the database including a
5 plurality of records, each record containing directory listing information for an entity;
6 and
7 presenting a query result to the user.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the user-sought entity is an individual.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of receiving the query information
2 from the user is performed via a voice telephone call.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the database is a central database.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the database is a distributed database.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the directory listing includes a telephone
2 number.
- 1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the genealogical information includes one of a
2 parent's name and a sibling's name.
- 1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving and presenting steps are
2 performed over one of a telecommunications network and a computer network.
- 1 9. A method for providing a directory listing, the method comprising steps of:
2 receiving query information from a user;
3 searching a database for a directory listing corresponding to the query
4 information, wherein the database includes a plurality of records, each record

5 containing directory listing information for an entity;
6 presenting a query result to the user;
7 requesting genealogical information corresponding to the query information;
8 receiving the genealogical information from the user;
9 searching the database for a directory listing corresponding to the genealogical
10 information; and
11 presenting a genealogical query result to the user.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the user-sought entity is an individual.

1 11. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of receiving the query information
2 from the user is performed via a voice telephone call.

1 12. The method of claim 9 wherein the database is a central database.

1 13. The method of claim 9 wherein the database is a distributed database.

1 14. The method of claim 9 wherein the directory listing includes a telephone
2 number.

1 15. The method of claim 9 wherein the genealogical information includes at least a
2 parent's name or a sibling's name.

1 16. The method of claim 9 wherein the receiving and presenting steps are
2 performed over one of a telecommunications network and a computer network.

1 17. A method for providing a directory listing, comprising the steps:
2 linking a first record in a database to a second record in the database when the
3 first and second records contain chronologically different information corresponding to a
4 same entity;
5 receiving from a user, query information corresponding to a user-sought entity;

6 searching the database for listings corresponding to the query information,
7 wherein said database includes a plurality of records, each record containing directly
8 listing information for an entity;

9 presenting a query result to the user, wherein said query result includes at least
10 one indicator for each listing that is linked to other listings in the database.

1 18. The method of claim 17, further comprising the step:

2 repeatedly presenting linked listings to the user when the user activates the
3 indicator, wherein the linked listings are presented with at least one indicator when the
4 linked listing is linked to other listings in the database.

1 19. The method of claim 17, wherein a first indicator is presented when the listing is
2 linked to a chronologically older listing in the database, and a second indicator is
3 presented when the listing is linked to a chronologically newer listing in the database.

1 20. The method of claim 17, wherein the user-sought entity is an individual.

1 21. The method of claim 17, wherein the step of receiving the query information
2 from the user is performed via a voice telephone call.

1 22. The method of claim 17 wherein the database is a central database.

1 23. The method of claim 17 wherein the database is a distributed database.

1 24. The method of claim 17 wherein the directory listing includes a telephone
2 number.

1 25. The method of claim 17, wherein the receiving and presenting steps are performed
2 over one of a telecommunications network and a computer network.

1 26. A method for providing a directory listing, comprising the steps:

2 receiving from a user, query information corresponding to a user-sought entity;

3 searching a database for database listings corresponding to the query information,
4 wherein said database includes a plurality of records, each record containing directory
5 listing information and an accuracy data field corresponding to an entity; and

6 presenting a query result to the user, wherein said query result includes the
7 contents of the accuracy field for each directory listing presented.

1 27. The method of claim 26, wherein the accuracy data field is a date corresponding
2 to a last date on which the directory listing information was most likely known to be
3 accurate.

1 28. The method of claim 26, wherein the accuracy data field is a date corresponding
2 to a last date on which the directory listing information was verified to be accurate.

1 29. The method of claim 26, wherein the accuracy data field is a number
2 corresponding to a number of days since the directory listing information was most likely
3 known to be accurate.

1 30. The method of claim 26, wherein the accuracy data field is a number
2 corresponding to a number of days since the directory listing information was verified to
3 be accurate.

1 31. The method of claim 26, wherein the accuracy data field is a percentage
2 corresponding to a likelihood that the directory listing information is accurate.

1 32. The method of claim 26, wherein the user-sought entity is an individual.

1 33. The method of claim 26, wherein the step of receiving the query information
2 from the user is performed via a voice telephone call.

1 34. The method of claim 26 wherein the database is a central database.

1 35. The method of claim 26 wherein the database is a distributed database.

1 36. The method of claim 26 wherein the directory listing includes a telephone
2 number.

1 37. The method of claim 26 wherein the receiving and presenting steps are
2 performed over one of a telecommunications network and a computer network.

1 38. A method of providing a directory listing, comprising the steps:
2 receiving query information from a user, wherein said query information
3 includes one of a telephone number and an email address.
4 searching a database for the query information, the database including a
5 plurality of records, each record containing directory listing information for an entity;
6 searching the Internet for the query information; and
7 presenting a query result to the user including results from the database search
8 and the Internet search.

1 39. The method of claim 38, further comprising the step:
2 defining an area code portion, an exchange portion, and a number portion
3 corresponding to the telephone number, when the query information includes the
4 telephone number;
5 wherein the searching the Internet is performed by searching for telephone
6 numbers on web pages, said telephone numbers on web pages including one or more
7 of the area code portion, the exchange portion, and the number portion, regardless of a
8 presentation format on the web pages.

1 40. The method of claim 38, further comprising the step:
2 defining a username portion and a domain name portion corresponding to the
3 email address, when the query information includes the email address;

4 wherein the searching the Internet is performed by searching for email
5 addresses on web pages, said email addresses on web pages including at least the
6 username portion and the domain name portion.

1 41. The method of claim 38, wherein the user-sought entity is an individual.

1 42. The method of claim 38, wherein the step of receiving the query information
2 from the user is performed via a voice telephone call.

1 43. The method of claim 38 wherein the database is a central database.

1 44. The method of claim 38 wherein the database is a distributed database.

1 45. The method of claim 38 wherein the directory listing includes a telephone
2 number.

1 46. The method of claim 38 wherein the receiving and presenting steps are performed
2 over one of a telecommunications network and a computer network.

1 47. A system for providing a directory listing, comprising:
2 a database including a plurality of records, each record containing directory
3 listing information for an entity;
4 a server computer adapted to perform the steps:

5 receiving query information from a user, wherein said query
6 information includes at least genealogical information
7 corresponding to a user-sought entity.

8 searching the database for the query information; and

9 presenting a query result to the user.

1 48. The system of claim 47, wherein the user-sought entity is an individual.

1 49. The system of claim 47, wherein the step of receiving the query information

2 from the user is performed via a voice telephone call.

1 50. The system of claim 47 wherein the database is a central database.

1 51. The system of claim 47 wherein the database is a distributed database.

1 52. The system of claim 47 wherein the directory listing includes a telephone
2 number.

1 53. The system of claim 47 wherein the genealogical information includes at least
2 one of a parent's name and a sibling's name.

1 54. The system of claim 47 wherein the receiving and presenting steps are
2 performed over one of a telecommunications network and a computer network.

1 55. A system for providing a directory listing, comprising:
2 a database comprising a plurality of records, each record containing directory
3 listing information for an entity;
4 a server computer adapted to perform the steps:
5 receiving query information from a user;
6 searching the database for a directory listing corresponding to the query
7 information;
8 presenting a query result to the user;
9 requesting genealogical information corresponding to the query
10 information;
11 receiving the genealogical information from the user;
12 searching the database for a directory listing corresponding to the
13 genealogical information; and
14 presenting a genealogical query result to the user.

1 56. The system of claim 55, wherein the user-sought entity is an individual.

1 57. The system of claim 55, wherein the step of receiving the query information
2 from the user is performed via a voice telephone call.

1 58. The system of claim 55 wherein the database is a central database.

1 59. The system of claim 55 wherein the database is a distributed database.

1 60. The system of claim 55 wherein the directory listing includes a telephone
2 number.

1 61. The system of claim 55 wherein the genealogical information includes at least
2 a parent's name or a sibling's name.

1 62. The system of claim 55 wherein the receiving and presenting steps are
2 performed over one of a telecommunications network and a computer network.

1 63. A system for providing a directory listing, comprising:
2 a database comprising a plurality of records, each record containing directory
3 listing information for an entity, wherein a first record in the database is linked to a
4 second record in the database when the first and second records contain chronologically
5 different information corresponding to a same entity;

6 a server computer adapted to perform the steps:

7 receiving from a user, query information corresponding to a user-sought
8 entity;

9 searching the database for listings corresponding to the query
10 information;

11 presenting a query result to the user, wherein said query result includes at
12 least one indicator for each listing that is linked to other listings in
13 the database.

1 64. The system of claim 63, wherein the server computer is adapted to recursively
2 present a linked listing to the user when the user activates the indicator, wherein the linked
3 listing is presented with at least one indicator when the linked listing is linked to at least
4 one other listing in the database.

1 65. The system of claim 63, wherein the server computer is adapted to present a first
2 indicator when the listing is linked to a chronologically older listing in the database, and
3 to present a second indicator when the listing is linked to a chronologically newer listing
4 in the database.

1 66. The system of claim 63, wherein the user-sought entity is an individual.

1 67. The system of claim 63, wherein the step of receiving the query information
2 from the user is performed via a voice telephone call.

1 68. The system of claim 63 wherein the database is a central database.

1 69. The system of claim 63 wherein the database is a distributed database.

1 70. The system of claim 63 wherein the directory listing includes a telephone
2 number.

1 71. The system of claim 63, wherein the receiving and presenting steps are performed
2 over one of a telecommunications network and a computer network.

1 72. A system for providing a directory listing, comprising:
2 a database comprising a plurality of records, each record containing directory
3 listing information and an accuracy data field corresponding to an entity;

4 a server computer adapted to perform the steps:
 5 receiving from a user, query information corresponding to a user-sought
 6 entity;
 7 searching the database for database listings corresponding to the query
 8 information;
 9 presenting a query result to the user, wherein said query result includes
 10 the contents of the accuracy field for each directory listing
 11 presented.

1 73. The system of claim 72, wherein the accuracy data field is a date corresponding to
 2 a last date on which the directory listing information was most likely known to be
 3 accurate.

1 74. The system of claim 72, wherein the accuracy data field is a date corresponding to
 2 a last date on which the directory listing information was verified to be accurate.

1 75. The system of claim 72, wherein the accuracy data field is a number
 2 corresponding to a number of days since the directory listing information was most likely
 3 known to be accurate.

1 76. The system of claim 72, wherein the accuracy data field is a number
 2 corresponding to a number of days since the directory listing information was verified to
 3 be accurate.

1 77. The system of claim 72, wherein the accuracy data field is a percentage
 2 corresponding to a likelihood that the directory listing information is accurate.

1 78. The system of claim 72, wherein the user-sought entity is an individual.

1 79. The system of claim 72, wherein the step of receiving the query information

2 from the user is performed via a voice telephone call.

1 80. The system of claim 72 wherein the database is a central database.

1 81. The system of claim 72 wherein the database is a distributed database.

1 82. The system of claim 72 wherein the directory listing includes a telephone
2 number.

1 83. The system of claim 72 wherein the receiving and presenting steps are
2 performed over one of a telecommunications network and a computer network.

1 84. A system for providing a directory listing, comprising:
2 a database comprising a plurality of records, each record containing directory
3 listing information for an entity;

4 a server computer adapted to perform the steps:
5 receiving query information from a user, wherein said query
6 information includes one of a telephone number and an email
7 address.

8 searching the database for the query information;
9 searching the Internet for the query information; and
10 presenting a query result to the user including results from the database
11 search and the Internet search.

1 85. The system of claim 84, wherein the server computer is adapted to perform the
2 step:

3 defining an area code portion, an exchange portion, and a number portion
4 corresponding to the telephone number, when the query information includes the
5 telephone number;

6 wherein the searching the Internet is performed by searching for telephone
7 numbers on web pages, said telephone numbers on web pages including one or more
8 of the area code portion, the exchange portion, and the number portion, regardless of a
9 presentation format on the web pages.

1 86. The system of claim 84, wherein the server computer is adapted to perform the
2 step:

3 defining a username portion and a domain name portion corresponding to the
4 email address, when the query information includes the email address;

5 wherein the searching the Internet is performed by searching for email
6 addresses on web pages, said email addresses on web pages including at least the
7 username portion and the domain name portion.

1 87. The system of claim 84, wherein the user-sought entity is an individual.

1 88. The system of claim 84, wherein the step of receiving the query information
2 from the user is performed via a voice telephone call.

1 89. The system of claim 84 wherein the database is a central database.

1 90. The system of claim 84 wherein the database is a distributed database.

1 91. The system of claim 84 wherein the directory listing includes a telephone
2 number.

1 92. The system of claim 84 wherein the receiving and presenting steps are performed
2 over one of a telecommunications network and a computer network.

1 93. A method for providing a directory listing, comprising steps of:

- 2 (1) presenting to a user a plurality of choices;
3 (2) waiting for the user to select at least one of said choices; and

4 (3) performing a search for a directory listing in accordance with the user
5 selection.

1 94. The method of claim 93, wherein the choices comprise various databases in
2 which to perform the search.

1 95. The method of claim 94, wherein the various databases comprise genealogical
2 information, historical information, accuracy information, and world wide web
3 information.

1 96. A computer system for providing a directory listing, comprising:
2 a processor;
3 a memory for storing computer readable instructions;
4 wherein when the computer readable instructions are executed, the computer
5 system is adapted to perform the steps:
6 presenting to a user a plurality of choices;
7 waiting for the user to select at least one of said choices; and
8 performing a search for a directory listing in accordance with the user
9 selection.

1 97. The method of claim 96, wherein the choices comprise various databases in
2 which to perform the search.

1 98. The method of claim 97, wherein the various databases comprise genealogical
2 information, historical information, accuracy information, and world wide web
3 information.